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Letter to Sue Dyer regarding an article for the AALL Newsletter, July 26, 1976

William Younger

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WILLIAM C. YOUNGER
LIBRARIAN

Supreme Court and State Law Library
Judicial Building - Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

July 26, 1976

TELEPHONE
(205) 832-6410

Ms. Sue Dyer
Editor, AALL Newsletter
Morrison and Foerster
One Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Sue:

Enclosed is an article on certification for the September issue of the AALL Newsletter. This article covers some important changes. For that reason, I hope that you can publish it as written without cutting. I have kept it as brief as possible and still cover the subject. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bill

William C. Younger, Chairman
AALL Certification Board

WCY/ajb

Enclosure

cc: Jack Ellenberger
Miss Antonette Russo
Certification Board Members
Francis Gates, Liaison Officer

CERTIFICATION: The AALL Certification Board composed of Irwin G. Manley, George A. Strait, Alfred V. Kulys, J. Lamar Woodard, and Chairman William C. Younger announces some significant changes in the certification rules which were recommended by the Certification Board and approved by the AALL Executive Board at its Boston meeting on June 24, 1976. These changes were made to correct some inequities in the qualification requirements for certification. The qualification requirements in the rules as changed are as follows:

C. Certification may be issued by the association to applicants who qualify under any of the following categories:

1. A graduate degree (either Bachelor's or Master's) in library science from a school accredited by the American Library Association and a degree in law from a law school approved by the American Bar Association or members of the Association of American Law Schools or the admission to the Bar of a state through the successful taking of its Bar examination, and two years of professional library experience.
2. A degree in law from a law school approved by the American Bar Association or members of the Association of American Law Schools or the admission to the Bar of a state through the successful taking of its Bar examination, and four years of professional library experience.
3. A graduate degree (either Bachelor's or Master's) in library science from a school accredited by the American Library Association and six years of professional library experience, or a graduate degree in library science from an accredited school and eight years of professional library experience, or a degree from an accredited college with a major in library science and ten years of professional library experience.
4. Twenty years of responsible professional law library experience and outstanding contribution to the profession (no degree requirement).

Space will not permit a long discussion on the changes as reflected in the above rules, but the substance is that some members of the association can now qualify for certification under Rules C.1, C.2, and C.3, who could previously qualify only under Rule C.4. Members should refer to pp. xv-xvii of the AALL Directory of Law Libraries, 1976 edition, for other information on certification prior to filing an application for certification.

The Certification Board has redesigned the certification certificate to include the new AALL logo. This new certificate will be offered in three formats. These are the certificate, the certificate plastic laminated on walnut, and the certificate reproduced on stainless steel and mounted on walnut. The basic processing fee, which has been \$5 in the past, but may be some more in the future, will cover the cost of the paper certificate. We have obtained special prices for the other two which are very reasonable. The plastic laminated will cost about \$10, and the stainless steel about \$30 additional. You will be proud of these certificates because they all are beautifully done.

Members who hold prior certificates or charter certificates may obtain a new certificate, a new certificate plastic laminated, or stainless steel mounted if they so desire. The Certification Board wants to make the certification program more meaningful and responsive

to the needs of the AALL membership. This is the prime reason for the rule changes and the new certificates. In an effort to let the membership and other interested people know about the AALL certification program and which members have been certified, the Certification Board has asked the Committee on Directories to indicate in the next issues of the AALL Biographical Directory of Law Librarians, and the Directory of Law Libraries which members of AALL have been certified. We have also asked the AALL Placement Committee to request the people who list with them to include the fact that they are an "AALL Certified Law Librarian" in their resumes, if they are certified.

Certification is a very important program of AALL and means that the person "has attained a standard of competence in law librarianship recognized under the standards adopted by the American Association of Law Libraries and is hereby designated a Certified Law Librarian." The significance of certification has been recognized by the American Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools, and the State and Court Law Libraries of the United States and Canada. The ABA 1976 Tentative Draft of Standards Relating to Appellate Courts says that an appellate court library should have a "collection and services comparable to those of an accredited law school library"; the Association of American Law Schools requires the head librarian of an accredited law school to meet "the certification requirements of the American Association of Law Libraries"; and the 1976 Tentative Draft of Proposed Standards for State Supreme Court Libraries of the State and Court Law Libraries of the United States and Canada says that the director or administrator of the law library "must meet the certification requirements of the American Association of Law Libraries." Many members and employers attach significance to certification and more would if they knew about the program. All members, who wish to do so and qualify, are urged to obtain and hang in a prominent place the certificate of their choosing. This will do much to publicize the program and to upgrade your status and that of other law librarians.

The Certification Board and AALL Headquarters are willing to do the necessary work to make this program a success. If you meet the standards and want to be certified initially or want a replacement certificate in either of the three formats, write to AALL Headquarters for an application. We are prepared for and are expecting a good response to these changes.